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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

GENERAL BOOKS AND BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

L'Humanité Préhistorique: Esquisse de Préhistoire Générale, avec 1300 Figures et Cartes dans le Texte. Par JACQUES DE MORGAN, Ancien Directeur Général des Antiquités de l'Égypte, Ancien Délégué Général en Perse du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique. [L'Évolution de l'Humanité, Synthèse Collective, dirigée par Henri Berr.] (Paris: La Renaissance du Livre. 1921. Pp. xix, 330. 15 fr.)

THIS book is the second number of a library of one hundred volumes, the *Bibliothèque de Synthèse Historique*. The first series of twenty-five volumes is devoted to pre-history and proto-history. M. de Morgan has already contributed generously to our knowledge of the earliest cultures of Egypt and the nearer East. He is qualified to take a cosmopolitan view of his vast subject. The book is divided into three parts: 1, "The Evolution of Industries"; 2, "The Life of Prehistoric Man"; 3, "The Intellectual Development and Mutual Relations of Peoples". It covers the whole of prehistoric time and life in all their aspects; not only in Europe, but with glances toward the almost unexplored regions of Asia and Africa, and even of America. The whole panorama is condensed in a volume of 330 pages, where space is also found for nearly two hundred plates. It is certainly an ambitious and hazardous undertaking. The author has made good use of his space. Both as explorer and student M. de Morgan speaks with authority. His conclusions have crystallized out of immediate acquaintance. He writes on a vast variety of subjects with a freedom, a vigor, and a certain bold caution which is always refreshing. We may shake our heads over his condensed arguments, where space does not allow even an attempt at completeness. But he always interests or fascinates us. We differ from him regretfully. The general tone of the book is cautious, that of a man who has made a world of facts the basis of his thought, who feels the narrowness and weakness of the foundations of many of our present theories, and warns us against premature and hasty generalizations. In his description of Lower Palaeolithic art and implements he shows us the world-wide distribution and general similarity of form of the earliest axes in Europe, Asia, and America. He doubts the probability or possibility of any single centre of their origin, and therefore of their chronological sequence. Hence Chellean, Acheulian, and Mousterian cultures represent not epochs but "sub-industries", forms of work, contemporaneous, dictated by local needs and aptitudes. He seems also to apply this to limited areas and provinces, like northern

Europe, where his argument is less convincing. Perhaps we have no right to expect that the surveyor of so wide a field can always find space to explain why and where the general rule fails to apply to details. The warning is certainly wise and timely.

The few pages devoted to Egyptian proto-history bristle with interesting suggestions. He objects to the current modern chronology as not allowing sufficient time for the successive stages of progress. His suggestion concerning Chaldaean or Asiatic influences on the earliest Egyptian development should attract the attention of Egyptologists, and will arouse opposition of believers in the autochthonous character of its civilization.

The author's survey of prehistoric pottery is less satisfactory. He seems to have despaired of finding any thread on which he can arrange and string his facts. Perhaps it could not be otherwise with so vast a subject. His account of the probable place of origin of the earliest use of metals might have been clearer even with our present meagre information. His treatment of the origin of the dolmen is excellent. His fifteen pages of "conclusions" summarize well the chief results of his study. The author has undertaken a most difficult task and is to be congratulated on his success. He has given us an excellent introduction to a field of surpassing interest and of steadily increasing importance to every student who would see and understand the trend and meaning of history.

Les Indo-Européens: Préhistoire des Langues, des Mœurs, et des Croyances de l'Europe. Par ALBERT CARNOY, Professeur à l'Université de Louvain. [Collection Lovanium III.] (Brussels and Paris: Vromant et Cie. 1921. Pp. 256. 7 fr.)

THIS is the first modern book on its subject, by a competent scholar, in the French language; and there is even yet none in English. It should therefore be welcomed, especially by those who do not read German easily. It is much more compact than the similar German works of Schrader, Hirt, or Feist—a great advantage to those who wish merely a layman's general orientation. To such, one can recommend heartily the chapters in which, in a few clear strokes, are sketched the outlines of prehistoric Indo-European culture, as they appear to present-day philologists. Beyond these, we find the usual discussions of the original home (Carnoy, following Schrader, puts it in southern Russia; he is particularly sure that it lay eastward, and was not in Germany), and of the race of the primal Indo-Europeans, which he connects with the brachycephalic "Alpine" stock, not the dolichocephalic "Nordic", as generally assumed.¹ No proposed solution of either of these questions can command our confidence at present. Of course Carnoy does not confuse race with language; he means only the speakers of the *Ursprache*. But the fact is that, for aught we know or probably ever shall know, they may have been

¹ Similar views have been expressed, though more hesitantly, by others, e.g., De Michelis, *L'Origine degli Indo-Europei* (Turin, 1903).